take remedial action. The performance of RRBs has improved considerably as the percentage of their gross NPAs and Net NPAs has reduced from 8.53% and 4.84% respectively as on 31st March, 2005 to 6.49% and 3.44% respectively as on 31st March, 2007. The recovery percentage has improved from 77.67% in 2004-05 to79.80% in 2006-07. The Net Worth of RRBs as a whole has increased from Rs. 3,466.25 crore as on 31st March, 2005 to Rs. 4,545.86 crore as on 31st March, 2007.

(b) Sponsor banks have been given the responsibility for improving the performance of RRBs. As per the provisions of RRB Act, 1976, the sponsor bank depute Chairman and other senior personnel to RRBs for their effective functioning. The sponsor banks also provide legal, financial, technical and other expertise to RRBs. Boards of RRB are independent of sponsor bank and have been vested with powers to take decisions within the framework/ laid down policies of Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD. NABARD has reported that they have not come across any complaint from the RRBs about dominance of Sponsor Bank or any difficulty experienced by them either in the matter of independence or working of the Bank.

(c) Does not arise.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial

*278. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give corpus fund for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Marine aquarium at Puri in Orissa

*279. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa proposes to set up a state-of-the-art marine aquarium at Puri to boost tourism in this region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Central Government to help the State to successfully execute this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territories themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that